GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:330
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2006
AIRPORTS IN NE REGION
Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

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(a) Whether the Government is considering to expand air services in North-Eastern States;

(b) If so, the details thereof ;

(c) The number of airports suitable for air services in North-Eastern States and the number of airports available there and the conditions of the same ;

(d) Whether the existing airports including Bagdogra are being or proposed to be modernised upto the level of other important airports of the country ;

(e) If so, the details thereof; and

(f) If not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) and (b):- The Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East Region. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government. Air services of Indian Airlines and Alliance Air in the North-East States have steadily increased over the past year and presently 109 flights/week are offered by Indian Airlines and Alliance Air to and within the North-Eastern Region

(c) :- Of the 22 airports available in the North- East 11 are operational at present.

(d) and (e):- Yes, Sir. Airports at Agartala, Dibrugarh, Guwahati, Silchar, Shillong and Bagdogra are being modernised/upgraded.

(f) :- Does not arise.